

Greater Cleveland Volunteers

Connecting you with opportunities to serve

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PARTNER AGENCY SPOTLIGHT: SEEDS OF LITERACY

Founded in 1997, Seeds of Literacy focuses on GED preparation, and prides itself on being a free and easily accessible adult literacy program for Cuyahoga County residents.

Almost two-thirds of adults in Cleveland are functionally illiterate. Numerous studies have indicated a strong link between low literacy and high poverty rates, and thanks to volunteer tutors, Seeds of Literacy, is working hard to reverse the alarmingly high illiteracy rates.

Rather than a traditional classroom environment, Seeds of Literacy offers one-on-one tutoring, with flexible scheduling and in-person or virtual instruction. Seeds of Literacy provides materials, practice tests, and tutors at no cost to the student. Both virtual and in-person tutors are needed. If you have a passion for continued education, literacy, and making an impact in your community, apply today!



Visit www.greaterclevelandvolunteers.org for volunteer opportunities.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers is funded in part by AmeriCorps Seniors and the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention.

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GCV's Chat Pals Program featured on Cleveland.com



Chat Pals was the focus of a recent article on Cleveland.com, written by Peter Chakerian, as part of his "Kindland" series. The articles shine a spotlight on positive news in the community, designed to inspire and uplift area residents. Chat Pals Coordinator, Kirsten Riley, and Communications Manager, Robert Harrison spoke with the reporter about the impact the program has had on participants and volunteers.

Chat Pals is more than a periodic wellness check. It's designed to combat loneliness and isolation in older adults, and has been very successful from the start, resulting in many of the participants and volunteers forming meaningful relationships, outside of the program. Ms. Riley recounted how many of the participants and volunteers have become friends as a result of Chat Pals: "We've had some individuals that have removed themselves from the program because they built a relationship, met up in-person and became friends."

Click here to read the article on Cleveland.com: tinyurl.com/5eztnd2f

Strategic Plan Progress

In 2022, Greater Cleveland Volunteers completed an in-depth strategic planning process and identified goals for the next few years. The primary focus of our plan is to engage more people in volunteering to help our community. We are exploring new partnerships, updating our website and incorporating new technology to make it easier for people to search for, and sign up for, volunteer opportunities. We are also working with a local marketing firm, Roopco, to conduct research on what motivates people to volunteer and how they find out about volunteering. Our goal is to find new methods and messaging to recruit more volunteers. We would love to have your input for this research. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey to share your thoughts on volunteerism: bit.ly/clevolunteersurvey



Annual Meeting Updates

Our annual meeting, in December 2023, was held at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's food distribution center. Staff from the Food Bank shared information about their programs and services and how volunteers help. We recognized members rotating off the board and those celebrating special anniversaries. We thank all our dedicated board members for their leadership and support!

Two new board members, Jeanna Davis, MSSA, and Stuart Kleiner, JD, were elected. Jeanna is President & CEO of Fairhill Partners. She

previously held leadership positions at Eliza Bryant Village, Catholic Charities, and the City of Cleveland. Stuart is a retired attorney who specialized in the real estate insurance industry and later worked in planned giving at the Hattie Larham Foundation and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

In addition, board officers were elected for 2024: President, Rosemary Rehner; Vice President, Stephanie FallCreek; Secretary, Shipra Rege; and Treasurer, Brendan Walsh.



Rosemary Rehner receives her 15-year award from Joy Banish



Georgia Anetzberer w/her 25-year award, w/Joy Banish and Rosemary Rehner



New board member, Jeanna Davis, MSSA



New board member, Stuart Kleiner, JD

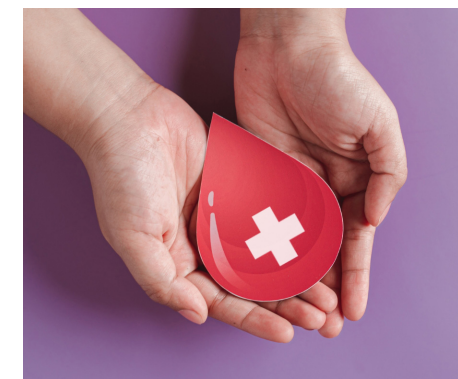


2023 Greater Cleveland Volunteers Board of Directors

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For these opportunities, contact **Nakeva Williams:**
216-391-9500 x2116 or nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Blood Donor Ambassador—Welcome and greet blood donors, escort as necessary and assist with initial intake/hand-offs through the blood donation process. Ensure blood donors have relevant information and questions are answered appropriately. Giving blood is such an important gift, and volunteers are needed to help the process run smoothly to make people feel safe and welcome. Volunteers are needed on weekdays and weekends throughout Cuyahoga County.



Fight For Air Climb—Volunteers needed for non-profit's fundraising event on Sunday, March 3, 2024, from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at Key Tower. Help with t-shirt distribution, registration, or as a wayfinder/cheerleader. Beverages and snacks provided, \$5 parking. Volunteer t-shirt provided, to be worn with clean, no holed jeans/pants, and comfortable shoes.

Tutor—Assist 1-8th grade participants with homework, projects, test preparation, papers, and other academic work. Located near Buckeye-Shaker neighborhood, volunteers are needed weekly, flexible shifts.

Spring Fling—Bring joy and an awesome experience to people with disabilities by helping out at a Spring Fling, on Saturday, March 2, 2024, from 3-9 p.m. at the Solon Recreation Center. Volunteers will assist as greeters/host, registration, photobooth and at food tables. Free parking, meals, and beverages. Dress for comfort or feel free to dress up, it's a Spring Fling!

House Coverage Volunteer—Be a part of a community that empowers pregnant and parenting women by supporting them emotionally, physically, and professionally in raising their children and thriving in the community. Volunteers are asked to assist in the home by answering the phone, taking donations, spending time with moms and babies and responding to emergencies. Shifts are available in the Garfield Heights area on Wednesday mornings and at weekends for 2-4 hours.

Airport Ambassador—Be the welcoming and helpful face to airline passengers arriving/departing Cleveland. Volunteers are needed to help direct passengers to gates, restrooms, restaurants, parking and through security. Assistance is needed Monday-Sunday with flexible 4-hour shifts.

One-to-One Friendship Match—Create a friendship with adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities in the community. This opportunity provides individuals with the chance of inclusion and to engage in community events. Volunteers are needed weekdays, evening, and weekends.

Pantry Volunteer—Located in the Cleveland Heights area, volunteers are needed to help prepare and pack food, stock shelves, serve food and clean up. Flexible shifts available.

Activity Leader—Are you a natural history buff? Or just enjoy supporting our local museums? Become an Activities Leader in University Circle area. Volunteers are needed weekly for 2-4-hour shifts. General tasks include introducing and encouraging kids and adults to join table activities, assisting in leading activities, answering questions to ensure a great visit for the guests.

Tax Preparer—Help ensure that tax services remain free and accessible to the over 12,000 low-income and elderly taxpayers each year. Tax Preparers provide free tax preparation assistance throughout many locations in Cuyahoga County.